

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

July 11, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

Annex Building

Shane Boswell, and Bob Wilhite were present. Shane opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Bright & JRAC is asking the commissioners for approval to join the ARA (Administrative Resources Association). In attendance with Judge Bright is Tobi Herron and Whitney Koelling with ARA. JRAC will be pulling in ARA for grant writing. The cost for ARA will be paid out of the Opioid Settlement funds. The county attorney is not in attendance today and he will need to review the contract. Judge Bright will send the contract to Alex for his review. Bob made a motion to allow Judge Bright to move forward with the ARA, Shane seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

Nicci with HR presented a travel request for herself and Shana Richmond. The expense will come from the HR training budget and probation user fees. Bob made a motion to approve the travel request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The treasurer also has a conference coming up and the expenses to be paid from the elected official training budget. Bob made a motion to approve the travel request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Marie Shepherd with APC has a presentation in Greensburg coming up and there will be no expenses involved. Bob made a motion to approve the travel request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Danny with APC will also be attending a training session, and the expenses will be paid from the APC budget. Bob made a motion to approve the travel request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The prosecutor's office received two resignations. The first one being Deputy Prosecutor Madisyn Harsh, her last day will be July 26. The second is the Victims Advocate, and she will be retiring on August 15. Bob made a motion to allow the Prosecutors office to start finding these replacements. Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bee Murphy with the coordinating council has come to ask the commissioners for \$10,000 for the 2025 budget. Bee said that the coordinating council received a grant from Purdue University to hire another person. She said the need just gets greater and greater. The families that have 2 incomes are having trouble making ends meet. Bee said that the Coordinating Council gives out 4600 to 4800 meals a month. She said that food boxes do not go to dead beats. If they are not working and trying, she will not give them a box until they go to work. She will not let them go hungry so she may give them peanut butter and beanie weenie's but not a meal box. The boxes have \$100.00 worth of food in them and that is enough to last for seven days (three meals a day) for four people. The coordinating council operates on donations only. Bee does not get paid, and she is in her eighth year. Shane told her that he was proud of her and glad that she was still there, and that she is doing a great job. Bob made a motion to approve \$10,000.00 for the 2025 budget, Shane seconded his motion, passed unanimously.

Ian Godfrey with EMS presented a letter of support for Tracy Jones to the commissioners. Ian said that Tracy has done an amazing job and has turned things around since she has become Director of EMS.

Sherri Maschino presented an amendment from Jacobi, Toombs, and Lanz that needs to be approved and signed. Bob made a motion to approve, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Kathy Christoff with Centerstone is updating the commissioners of their services offered in Jennings County. There were 947 clients served in 2023, and of that 947, 796 are under 200% poverty level. Centerstone has 31 staff members in Jennings County. Jennings County paid Centerstone \$174,669.00 in tax revenue. Centerstone has used that money to offset the cost for people that come on and have no resources. Jennings County Crisis Diversion Center (Stride) is in Columbus. It is for adults only and you can stay for 23 hours. The center is not a hospital and not a jail. There are staff trained to work with them and help them. When you are having a mental health crisis, you should call 988, not 911. When 911 is called, you will get law enforcement. When 988 is called, you get a mental health provider. Centerstone also has a mobile crisis team. The mobile crisis team see children also. Centerstone is in all of the Jennings County Schools and the staff on site is a trained recovery coach.

Tim Poer is asking for the commissioners to waive the fees at the community building for the back-to-school bus driver meeting on July 31. Bob made a motion to approve the request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dunlap has an annual contract with the jail that is up for renewal. Justin Fox (maintenance) says that he doesn't think we need to renew the maintenance contract. He thinks that the county would save money by allowing him and his helper to perform the maintenance at the jail. Justin says that Dunlap is a good contractor, and they will continue to be the contractor for the jail, he just thinks the maintenance agreement is a waste of money. Bob made a motion to table this until the next meeting, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bob made a motion to approve prior meeting minutes, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

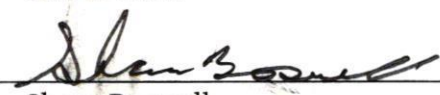
Bob made a motion to sign payroll and claims, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bob made a motion to adjourn; Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.


Sarah J. Abel, Auditor


Matt Sporleder, President


Bob Wilhite


Shane Boswell